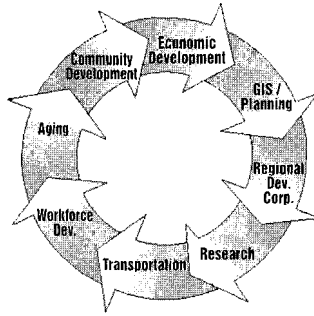


# Santee-Lynches Regional Council of Governments

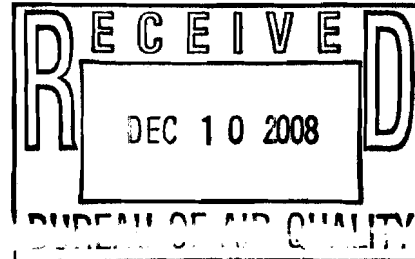


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December 9, 2008

Myra C. Reece, Bureau Chief  
SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, SC 29201



RE: Redefining Air Quality Boundaries – Kershaw County Exclusion

Dear Ms. Reece:

I am responding to information made available to me by our representative to the SCDOT as well as information provided by the Central Midlands Council of Governments regarding the above topic.

The Santee-Lynches' region (Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee and Sumter Counties) has been an active participant with SCDHEC regarding Air Quality issues impacting this region. We would like to offer our opinion that it would be in the best interest of Kershaw County that the proposed new boundary established to comply with U.S. EPA Air Quality Standards exclude those portions of Kershaw County presently a part of the expanded Central Midlands Metropolitan Statistical Area. By doing so, it would remove Kershaw County from the Columbia area MSA geography under consideration by EPA to be designated as a "non-attainment" area for ground level ozone.

Second and perhaps equally important benefit to both Kershaw County and SCDHEC as a direct result of the exclusion of Kershaw County would be a reduction in the number of local government jurisdictions that would have to be dealt with when coordinating an area solution. This should increase the efficiency and ease of coordination with the other local government jurisdictions west of Kershaw County which collectively have a greater influence upon reduction of emissions and achieving EPA ozone standards.

Page 2 – Ms. Reece  
December 9, 2008

It is our view that under present conditions Kershaw County is not a material contributor to the "non-attainment" status of the Columbia Metropolitan Area.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James T. Darby, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James T. Darby, Jr.  
Executive Director

pc     Mike Sullivan, SCDOT Representative  
         Frank Broom, Manager, City of Camden  
         Clay Young, Administrator, Kershaw County